

Public Input from the Blue Ribbon Panel on Property Rights (BRPPR) Meeting in Langton, Ontario on April 19, 2017

Host: Toby Barrett, MPP Haldiman-Norfolk
Date / Time: April 19 from 1-3:30 PM
Place: Langton Hideaway Hitchin-Post Restaurant, 4 Albert St, Langton, ON
Panel Members Attending: Jack MacLaren, MPP; Tom Black; Marlene Black; Frank Burke; Mark Breckon; Shirley Dolan

Key Points: MPP Toby Barrett introduced Jack MacLaren and thanked the panel for coming.



Mr. Barrett commended the panel on their objective saying that he had introduced a bill on property rights in the Ontario Legislature in 1995. He spoke of the town of Langton's connection to the Magna Carta of 1215. Langton, Ontario is the only community in North America named after Stephen Langton, Archbishop of Canterbury. The Archbishop was a key figure in the presentation of the Magna Charta by the barons to King John in 1215. The Magna Carta is a foundation document containing protection for property and human rights. The stained-glass window showing Stephen Langton presenting King John with the Magna Carta, pictured at left, can be found at the Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church in Langton, Ontario.



Feedback

- Citizens have lost their trust in government
 - There are too many regulations and regulations stifle growth
 - Trespass is an issue – shows lack of respect for the property owner
 - So many laws and bills today have a clause sanctioning unwarranted entry on private property
 - Your neighbour has more control over your property than you do – anonymous complaints lead to harassment by bylaw officers
- We should have the right to know our accuser – anonymous complaints
 - Complaint-driven inspections – property owners should have the right to know who initiated the complaint
 - Need better consultation

- Consultation with property owners before legislation
- Increase time limits – 5 minutes is not enough time for the average person to parlay their point of view
- Designations on property interfere with your ability to get a loan
- Get rid of omnibus bills
- Change the culture of government from one where they know better than the property owner. Governments keep a list of experts but if you hire one and the work fails, it's your fault.
- Government should stop beating people up.
- There should be a preamble in each piece of legislation that it cannot violate property rights.
- Get the Conservation Authorities and the MNRF under control
- Stronger protection for farmers dealing with nuisance animals
- Property rights ombudsman